

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CROPS

The condition of the winter wheat crop deteriorated from a month ago due to temperature fluctuations that caused freezing and thawing of the crop. There was little or no snow cover on the wheat crop when temperatures dropped to near -20 degrees over 90 percent of the state. As of February 16, winter wheat conditions were rated as one percent excellent, 23 percent good, 45 percent fair, 25 percent poor and six percent very poor.

Precipitation has been slightly below normal for this time of year. Topsoil moisture is in need of replenishing, especially in the southern areas. As of February 16, topsoil moisture was rated as three percent surplus, 62 percent adequate, 33 percent short and two percent very short.

Sub-zero temperatures across the state have been hard on livestock. Weight gains were poor in both cattle and hogs. Hay supplies across the state appear to be adequate, although some areas in the southern part of the state may need hay before the spring. Also, the demand for quality hay is always an issue during this time of year. Farm activities included hauling grain, spreading manure and general farm maintenance.

ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Topsoil Moisture Percent			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
As of February 16				
Northwest	-	10	90	-
Northeast	-	25	75	-
West	-	45	55	-
Central	5	60	35	-
East	5	35	55	5
W Southwest	5	30	65	-
E Southeast	-	30	70	-
Southwest	5	25	70	-
Southeast	-	30	50	20
State	2	33	62	3

JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

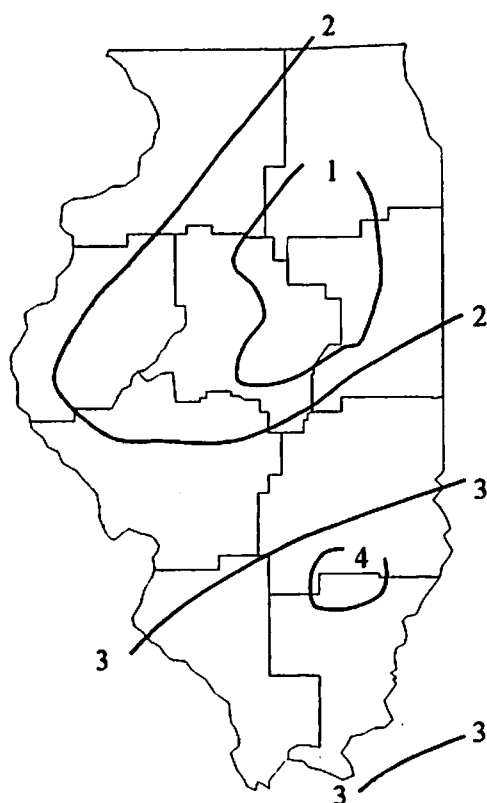
Precipitation was 10 to 60 percent above average, except for east-central Illinois where it was eight percent below. Most fell in the form of snow. Temperatures were 1 to 2°F below average which helped retain snow cover.

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

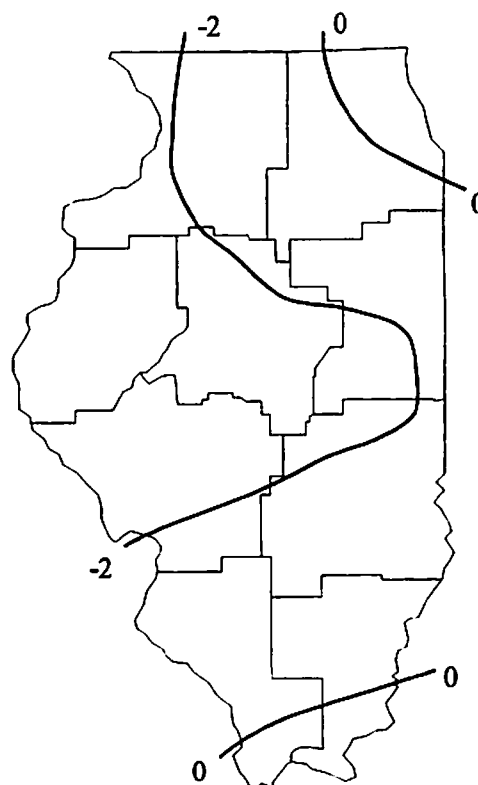
	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
January	2.12	1.79	2.31	1.73	1.63	2.61	3.78	3.87	4.15	2.63
Departure	0.78	0.24	0.82	0.09	-0.14	0.86	1.55	1.37	1.32	0.77

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT TEMPERATURE AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN DEGREES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
January	17.5	19.9	21.3	21.4	22.1	24.0	25.2	28.9	29.5	23.0
Departure	-2.0	-0.7	-2.3	-1.5	-1.0	-2.1	-1.7	-1.2	-1.0	-1.5



Precipitation (inches)
January 1996



Temperature Departure
January 1996

FEBRUARY 1-15 WEATHER SUMMARY

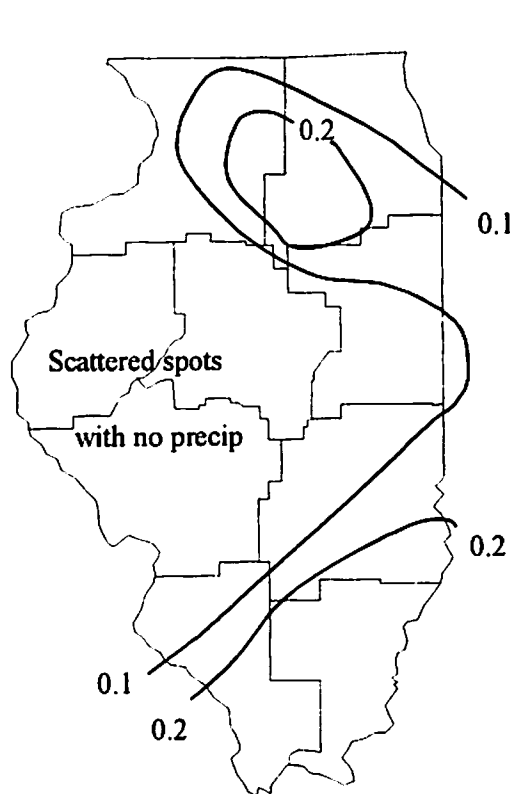
Although temperatures were 2 to 4°F below average for these 15 days of February, temperatures from the 7th to the 10th were 10 to 15°F above average (in the 40's to low 60's), which destroyed snow cover in the state. Ground frost is 30 inches thick in north-central and northwestern counties, 20 inches in the northeast, decreasing to 5 to 10 inches in central Illinois, and disappears altogether south of about Mt. Vernon.

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

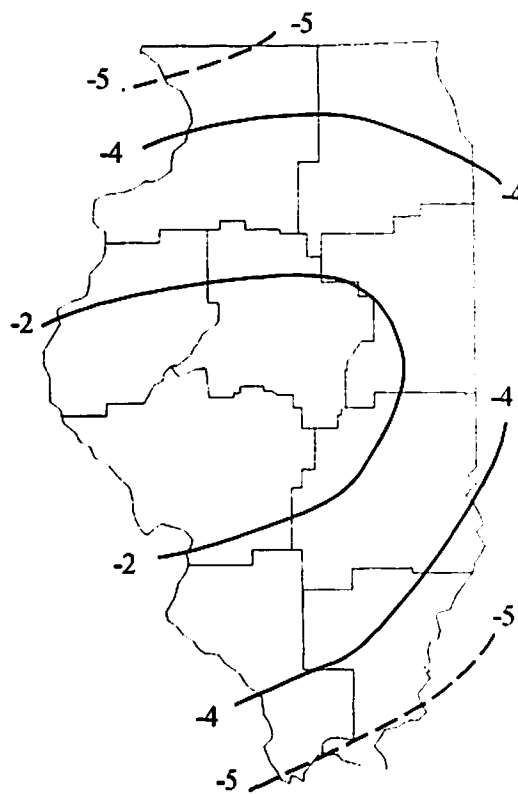
	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
Feb. 1-15	0.16	0.28	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.03	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.10
Departure	-0.34	-0.35	-0.59	-0.60	-0.66	-0.80	-1.02	-1.23	-1.39	-0.75

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT TEMPERATURE AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN DEGREES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
Feb. 1-15	16.3	17.8	21.6	21.4	21.1	25.0	24.5	28.6	27.8	22.4
Departure	-4.4	-4.0	-3.2	-2.7	-2.9	-2.1	-3.5	-2.7	-3.9	-3.3



Precipitation (inches)
February 1-15, 1996

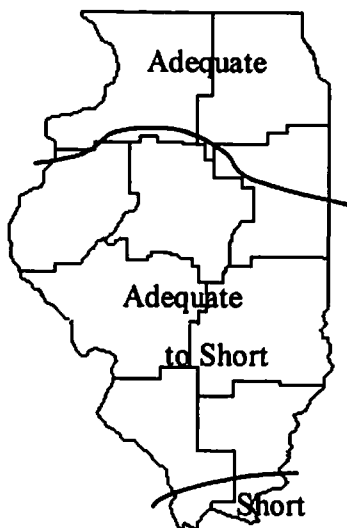


Temperature Departure
February 1-15, 1996

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Topsoil Moisture Supply
February 16, 1996

CROP PROGRESS INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by local area officials of Farm Service Agency, Extension Service, National Resources Conservation Service, Farm Business Farm Management field staff, and agribusiness managers.

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